

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6987

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (REPPAS, GEORGE)

SUBJECT: SUPREME COURT REJECTION OF REPPAS APPEAL

1. DCM DISCUSSED REJECTION OF HIS APPEAL BY SUPREME COURT WITH REPPAS SHORTLY AFTER HE LEARNED OF DECISION ON MAR 4. REPPAS TOOK DECISION CALMLY INDICATING THAT HE BELIEVED THAT GOMR WOULD FIND IT EASIER TO CONSIDER HIS BEING GRANTED LIBERTE CONDITIONNELLE THAN TO LOSE FACE BY REVERSING LOWER COURTS AND THEN HAVING TO EXTEND JUDICIAL PROCESS WITH NEW TRIAL. REPPAS LAWYER LEBEL PLANS SUBMIT REQUEST TOGOOLLPBZGTZHVOMBPT POMMZLLZHMWG 5 AND DISCUSSED THIS WITH REPPAS AND LATER WITH DCM.

2. IT HAS NOW OCCURRED TO REPPAS ALSO THAT GOMR MAY WISH TO USE HIM AS WITNESS AGAINST RESAMPA (SEE TANANARIVE 0301) AND HE IS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT THIS MAY COMPLICATE HIS SITUATION.

3. MADAGASCAR MATIN MARCH 4 CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH NEW MINISTER OF JUSTICE MODESTE VENANCE WHO INDICATED THAT 1800 OF 2150 (NEW FIGURE) PRISONERS WHO HAD BEEN RELEASED FROM PRISON DURING FIGHTING ON FEB 12-13 HAD BEEN RETURNED TO DETENTION FACILITIES. REPPAS, WHO WAS UNAWARE OF THIS NEWS, ACCEPTED THAT LIKELIHOOD OF HIS RETURN TO PRISON NOW MUCH GREATER SINCE HIS CONVICTION UPHELD.

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4. REPPAS AGAIN REFERRED TO ESCAPE PLANS BUT SAID HE HAD BEEN

UNABLE TO MAKE ANY "ARRANGEMENTS." DCM AGAIN CAUTIONED HIM THAT THIS WOULD BE FOOLHARDY, ESPECIALLY IN FACT OF CURRENT STRINGENT GOMR SECURITY MEASURES AND POTENTIAL FOR LIBERTE CONDITIONNELLE. HE AGREED.

5. REPPAS' GOOD SPIRITS IN PART ATTRIBUTABLE TO APPARENT FACT THAT PROCUREUR GENERAL VICTOR RAMANITRA WAS RELIEVED OF HIS POSITION AT END OF FEB ACCORDING TO LEBEL AND ANOTHER EMBASSY SOURCE. REPPAS SAW RAMANITRA AS HIS ARCH RIVAL AND WAS VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE THIS NEWS.

6. REPPAS CHECKED IN WITH POLICE MORNING OF MARCH 5 WITHOUT INCIDENT.

7. EMBASSY COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO EXTEND REPPAS' STAY AT EMBASSY UNTIL 30 APRIL OR UNTIL DECISION RENDERED ON LIBERTE CONDITIONNELLE, BUT CHANCES ARE DECLINING AS MOST OTHER PRISONERS HAVE ALREADY RETURNED. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT MAINTAINS SLIGHT PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE VIS-A-VIS GOMR BY HAVING REPPAS AT EMBASSY. DCM WILL MEET WITH LEBEL MAR 6 TO OBTAIN HIS DETAILED VIEWS ON PURSUIT OF LIBERTE CONDITIONNELE WITH GOMR. EMBASSY WILL THEN DECIDE ON HOW IT PLANS TO PROCEED WITH GOMR.
MENDENHALL

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